

Introduction:

Why is sin so rampant today? Why do a lot of people not think about God? Court house in Powhatan, AR in the courtroom has the "face" of God looking at the witness. In the Old Testament we see the power of God to create, sustain, punish, and destroy. Proverbs turns our attention to God with the phrase "The fear of the Lord."

I) Fear

A) Defined as -- awesome, reverence toward, fright, respect, to be filled with awe of God.

1. The Law of Moses taught the Jews to treat God with respect and fear. *Deut. 6.2*
 - a. To not take the name of the Lord in vain. Refers to using it ordinarily and without meaning.
 - b. Today we hear the Lord's name used in cursing, in jokes, said without thought.
 - c. The Jews would not dare to write God's name in ordinary form.
2. The Law of Moses was to be treated with respect. It was GOD'S LAW! *Deut. 6.1, 2b*
 - a. The reading of the Law was important. *Deut. 17.18-19*
 - b. *Nehemiah 8* the people stood up as the law was opened.

3. The judgment of God is to be feared.
 - a. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of God.
Hebrews 10.31
 - b. Today people treat the phrase "hell" with contempt or without thought.

II) **Proverbs 1.7 The Fear of The Lord Is the Beginning Of Knowledge**

A) **Knowledge leads to understanding and wisdom.**
Proverbs 2.1-5

1. God has revealed Himself to us in His word. We can understand His law, *Ephesians 5.17*
2. My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge.
Hosea 4.6

B) **Proverbs 9.10 Can man be "wise" without a fear of God?**

1. Man can learn facts and gain knowledge but how he uses his knowledge and facts depends on his wisdom and knowledge of God.
2. Ex. Dr. Kevorkian and the taking of human life.
3. Man without God is dangerous. Think of "scientific experiments" done without a sense of right and wrong.

C) **Isaiah 55.9-11 tells us the way of God are higher than man's ways.**

D) **Wisdom can be found in God's word, Proverbs 9.1-6. Wisdom is available to those who will listen.**

III) **The Fear of The Lord Is to Hate Evil, *Proverbs 8.13***

A) ***Psalm 119.104* I hate every false way.**

1. Those things we hate we stay away from: heights, snakes, spinach, etc.
2. Those things we love we get near.
3. God hates sin and will punish the sinner with the fire of hell. Do we love or hate sin?

B) **Sin is evil, every false way, to violate God's law is sin, *1 John 3.4*.**

IV) **The Fear of The Lord Prolongs Life, *Proverbs 10.27***

A) **Under the Old Testament the sinner was often punished with death.**

1. Today our punishment for sin most of the time does not lead to physical death.
2. *Romans 6.23* tells us the punishment is still death, spiritual death.
3. The way of the transgressor is hard. Sin often brings about hardship in one's life.
 - a. Breakup of the home
 - b. Poverty, bad reputation, prison, etc.

B) ***Proverbs 15.33* speaks of having humility toward God, *James 4.6*.**

1. Paul refers to something similar in *Ephesians 6.1-3*

2. We either learn obedience in the high chair or the electric chair. *Proverbs 19.23*

V) **Proverbs 23.17 Continues All Day Long**

A) **Respect for God should never diminish.**

1. Fear in the sense of punishment should turn into respect for God.

Conclusion:

True story of Ricky Don Blackmon, he was executed for killing a man. Fear of the Lord gives us wisdom, will lead us to everlasting life, gives us safety, will keep us from the wicked person, brings favor from God.